REMARKS

Claims 1-70 remain in the application. Claims 1, 11, 15, and 31 have been updated. The Applicants submit that the activities described in the attached declaration do not constitute prior art against any of the pending claims of the application. In particular the activities described in paragraphs nos. 1-6 do not include the automatic features recited in each of the claims. Comparatively, the activities described in paragraph 7 occurred less than one year before the filing date and do not, consequently, constitute prior art.

The Applicant requests examination and favorable action on this application.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (202) 220-4311 to discuss any matter concerning this application.

A paper entitled Claims With Markings to Show Changes Made has been attached hereto.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: AuguST 17, 2001   By:

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CLAIMS WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

1. (Amended) A method for routing direct-dialed voice-band calls over an Internet protocol (IP) network, comprising:

receiving a direct-dialed voice-band call from a calling party telephone number, the direct-dialed voice-band call being associated with a destination number; and

automatically routing the direct-dialed voice-band call to be routed to the destination number as a voice-over-Internet protocol (VOIP) telephone call if the calling party telephone number [is] was previously automatically registered for a VOIP service and if the destination number of the direct-dialed telephone call is accessible by the VOIP service.

11. (Amended) An article of manufacture comprising a computer-readable medium having stored thereon instructions adapted to be executed by a processor, the instructions which, when executed, define a series of steps to route direct-dialed voice-band calls over an Internet protocol (IP) network, said steps comprising:

receiving a direct-dialed voice-band call from a calling party telephone number, the direct-dialed voice-band call being associated with a destination number; and

automatically routing the direct-dialed voice-band call to the destination number as a voice-over-Internet protocol (VOIP) telephone call if the calling party telephone number [is] was previously automatically registered for a VOIP service and if the destination number of the direct-dialed telephone call is accessible by the VOIP service.

15. (Amended) A method for automatically provisioning and maintaining a network system for routing direct-dialed voice-band calls from a calling party telephone number over an Internet protocol (IP) network comprising:

receiving a voice-over-Internet protocol (VOIP) service registration for the calling party telephone number;

automatically generating at least one order record for the calling party telephone number's VOIP service;

storing the at least one order record for the calling party telephone number's VOIP service;

managing the billing interaction for a billed account between at least one calling party telephone number and a billed telephone number;

synchronizing changes made to the stored at least one order record for the calling party telephone number's VOIP service, between the network system and a billing system, due to calling party activations, disconnections and changes; and

processing at least one call detail record including at least a terminating access identification (ID).

31. (Amended) An article of manufacture comprising a computer-readable medium having stored thereon instructions adapted to be executed by a processor, the instructions which, when executed, define a series of steps to automatically provision and maintain a network system for routing direct-dialed voice-band calls from a calling party telephone number over an Internet protocol (IP) network, said steps comprising:

receiving a voice-over-Internet protocol (VOIP) service registration for the calling party telephone number;

automatically generating at least one order record for the calling party telephone number's VOIP service;

storing the at least one order record for the calling party telephone number's VOIP service;

managing the billing interaction for a billed account between at least one calling party telephone number and a billed telephone number;

synchronizing changes made to the stored at least one order record for the calling party telephone number's VOIP service, between the network system and a billing system, due to calling party activations, disconnections and changes; and

processing at least one call detail record including at least a terminating access identification (ID).